

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on February 24, 2004. Applicants gratefully the indicated allowability of claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 17. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 6, and claim 6 is accordingly cancelled. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are in the case.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed herein on 25 February 2004.

Claims 1, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,803,256 (Luckenbach). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Luckenbach. Claim 1, from which claims 13, 14, and 16 depend, now corresponds in scope to former claim 6. Former claim 6 was not rejected over the Luckenbach reference. Accordingly, the stated grounds of rejection are not applicable to claims 1, 13, 14, and 16 as amended herein.

Conclusion

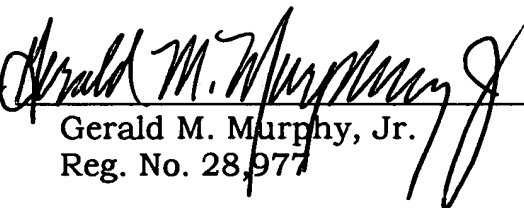
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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